

# Neighborhood Revitalization in Saint Paul

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# Neighborhood Revitalization Principles

- Neighborhoods are the **fundamental building blocks** of the city. They are the primary setting for civic engagement, city planning and managing change.
- It is in the City's best interest to **support and grow strong neighborhoods**, with an engaged citizenry, diverse housing stock, mix of land uses, access to multi-modal transportation options, range of parks and open spaces, safety and beauty.
- The best neighborhoods thrive with a **public-private partnership** committed to working with neighborhood residents around shared goals.
- Neighborhood change is a **constant process** and must be continually planned for, directed and managed.
- Neighborhood associations are one of many **players** impacting the vitality of neighborhoods. Other players include the City, County, State, educational institutions, community development corporations, block clubs, private developers, non-profit developers and major employers.

# City Role in Neighborhood Revitalization

- Community engagement, planning and urban design
- Regulation
- Development financing
- Infrastructure investment

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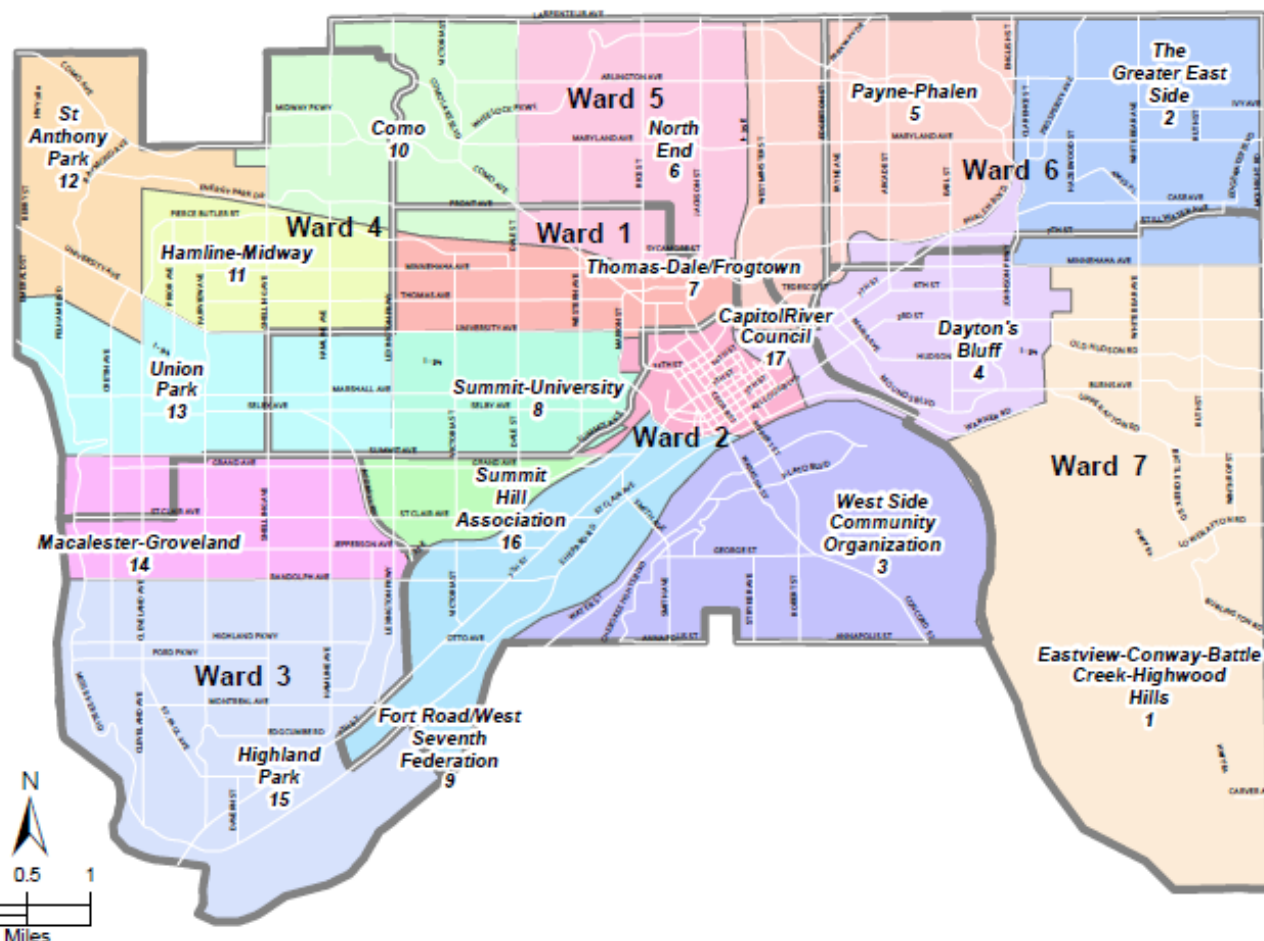
# Community engagement, planning and urban design

- District councils
- District and small area plans
- Saint Paul Design Center

# Saint Paul District Councils

- System created in 1975
- 17 district councils city-wide
- Official citizen participation organization for each neighborhood
- Independent non-profit organizations
- Some district councils are also CDCs
- Funding:
  - CDBG
  - Foundation grants

# City of Saint Paul Wards and District Councils



# District and Small Area Plans

- Each district has a plan, adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan
- Small area plans address a particular issue and/or geographic area, also adopted as part of the Comp Plan



# Saint Paul Design Center

- Public-private partnership – City and Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation
- Goal: High-quality urban design in private and public projects
- Community charrettes, design workshops



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# Regulation

- More flexible land use categories (traditional neighborhood districts)
- Urban design standards (traditional neighborhood districts)
- City-wide building design standards
- Residential design standards
- Accessory dwelling units
- Residential permit parking system
- Heritage preservation districts
- Neighborhood conservation districts

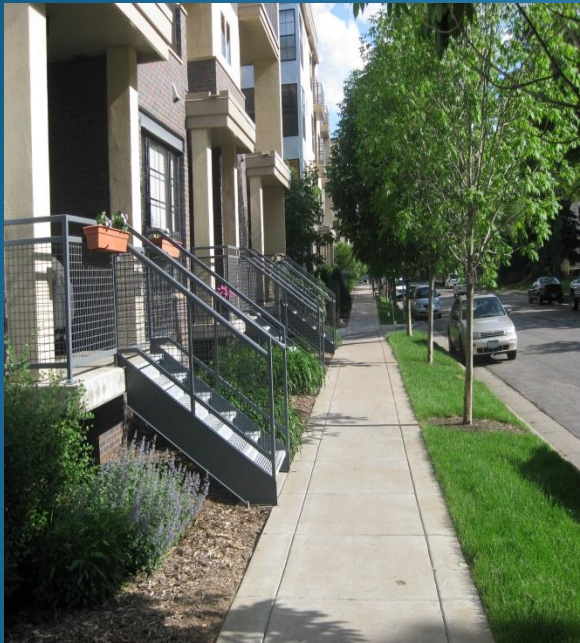
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# Development Financing

- TIF
- Neighborhood STAR
  - Loans and grants for capital improvement projects that further residential, cultural, economic and commercial development
  - Funded with 50% of annual sales tax proceeds (half-cent sales tax levied since 1994)
  - Awarded through competitive process
  - Neighborhood-based projects designed with neighborhood representation to strengthen Saint Paul neighborhoods
  - Eligible applicants: public, private, non-profit, for-profit entity doing business in Saint Paul
  - 1:1 match with non-City resources

# Development Financing



- Housing Assistance
  - Housing rehab lending for owner-occupied housing (CDBG, income restrictions)
  - Inspiring Communities
  - Minnesota Home Ownership Center
  - Mortgage foreclosure prevention
- Flow-through for Metropolitan Council and State funding
- Partner with CDCs and Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers

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# Infrastructure Investment



- Saint Paul Streets
  - Long-term plan to reconstruct all residential streets
  - Funded from street improvement bonds and assessments
  - 2-3 miles/year
  - Now adding arterials
  - New street lighting
  - New trees
  - Street paving
  - Upgrading sewers, utilities as needed
  - Public art
- Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk



# Thank You!

